

ST. NEOTS
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
and
Surveyor & Chief Sanitary
Inspector
FOR THE YEAR
1948.



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948,

BY

EDWARD T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD T. SHENNAN.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Tel.: Huntingdon 673 and St. Ives 2306).

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

M. FAWCETT, M.S.I.A., M.R.San. I.
(Tel.: St. Neots 34 and Buckden 282).

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor.

G. O. MARCH, M.S.I.A., A.R.San. I.

Water Engineer.

D. W. BEDDOW.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 52,559 acres (approximately 81 square miles).
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1948:—2330.
Rateable Value of the District: £21,937.
Value of a Penny Rate: £87.
The district is almost entirely agricultural.

VILLAGES INCLUDED IN THE AREA:—

	Population in 1921.	Population in 1931.
Abbotsley	... 321	263
Buckden	... 998	1037
Catworth	... 384	318
Covington	... 109	82
Diddington	... 175	172
Eynesbury Hardwicke	... 139	139
Grafham	... 201	200
Great Gransden	... 458	395
Great Paxton	... 306	292
Great Staughton	... 685	651
Hail Weston	... 265	236
Kimbolton	... 902	699
Little Paxton	... 210	229
Midloe	... 33	40
Offord Cluny	... 205	217
Offord D'Arcy	... 293	291
St. Neots Rural	... 90	68
Southoe	... 214	211
Stow	... 90	90
Tetworth	... 159	131
Tilbrook	... 192	202
Toseland	... 138	145
Waresley	... 183	167
Yelling	... 225	193
Total	... 6975	6468

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Estimated Population (Mid 1947)	...	...	6,765				
	Estimated Population (Mid 1948)	...	...	6,915				
	(1)			(2)				
	Registrar General's Figures, (SD 30; SD 30A; SD 55).			Less Events at No. 6, General Hospi- tal, Diddington.				
	Total M. F.			Total M. F.				
LIVE BIRTHS	... 192 98 94	...	...	130 61 69				
Legitimate	... 177 94 83	...	...	Figures not				
Illegitimate	... 15 4 11	...	...	available.				
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 Estimated Population	... 27.8			18.9				
Ditto (England and Wales)	... 17.9			17.9				
STILL BIRTHS	... 7 5 2	...	...	4 3 1				
STILL BIRTH Rate per 1,000 Esti- mated Population	... 1.0			0.58				
Ditto (England and Wales)	... 0.42			0.42				
DEATHS (ALL AGES)	... 89 39 50	...	...	85 36 49				
DEATH RATE per 1,000 Estimated Population	... 12.9			12. 6				
Ditto (England and Wales)	... 10. 8			10. 8				
Deaths from Puer- peral Causes	... 1			Nil				
No. 29. Puerperal & post abort. sepsis.	... Nil			Nil				
No. 30. Other mater- nal causes	... 1			Nil				
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	... 7 3 4	...	...	5 2 3				
DEATH RATES of Infants under 1 year:—								
All Infants per 1,000 live births	... 36. 5			38. 5				
Ditto (England and Wales)	... 34			34				
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... 14 10 4	...	...	13 9 4				
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... Nil			Nil				
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... 1 1	...	...	Nil				
Deaths from Diarrhoea (0—2 years)	... Nil			Nil				
No. 6 Polish General Hospital closed down in September.								

CAUSES OF DEATHS:

(Registrar General's Short List).

No.		Total	M.	F.
4.	Whooping Cough	1	—	1
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	2	1
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
9.	Influenza	1	1	0
14.	Cancer of the stomach and duodenum	6	4	2
15.	Cancer of Breast	1	—	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	7	6	1
17.	Diabetes	2	—	2
18.	Intracranial Vascular lesions	13	5	8
19.	Heart Disease	18	5	13
20.	Other disease of circulatory system	1	1	0
21.	Bronchitis	7	4	3
22.	Pneumonia	4	2	2
23.	Other respiratory disease	1	—	1
27.	Other digestive disorders	4	2	2
28.	Nephritis	1	—	1
30.	Other maternal causes	1	—	1
31.	Premature birth	1	—	1
32.	Congenital Mal., birth injury, infantile disease	4	2	2
35.	Other violent causes	2	2	0
36.	Other causes	10	3	7
		89	39	50

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The health services existing prior to the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, 1946, on 5th July, 1948, are in the main unchanged, apart from alterations in the authorities administering them.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The following laboratory facilities are available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area:

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.), Tennyson Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

(1) On 5th July, 1948, in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, a County Ambulance Service was set up. This service is operated in conjunction with the County Fire Service, and centred on Huntingdon. Ambulances are available on doctors' orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 67.

(II) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital, is available for cases of infectious disease. Tel.: Huntingdon 59.

(c) Home Nursing.

The administration of the Home Nursing Services of the District, following 5th July, 1948, ceases to be the responsibility of the County and District Nursing Associations, and now comes under the Huntingdon County Council Health Department.

- (i) A nurse residing in Great Staughton (Tel.: Kimbolton 271), attends cases in Kimbolton, Great Staughton, Grafham, Perry, Tilbrook, Dillington and Hail Weston.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Eltisley (Tel.: Croxton 210), attends cases in Great Paxton, The Offords, Toseland, Yelling, Great Gransden, Waresley and Abbotsley.
- (iii) A nurse residing in Brampton (Tel.: Huntingdon 336), attends in Buckden, Diddington and Southoe.
- (iv) A nurse residing in Catworth (Tel.: Bythorn 217), attends in Catworth and Covington.
- (v) Little Paxton is attended by a nurse living in St. Neots (Tel.: St. Neots 215).

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

(I) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:

Clinic.	Patients seen.	When held	Where held.
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	1st Thursday in month 10—11.30 a.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
		1st Friday in month 10.30—11.30 a.m.	Village Hall, Gt. Staughton.
		Every Monday, 9.30—10.30 a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Infant Welfare	Children (0—5 years)	Every Thursday, 2—4 p.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
		Third Monday in month; 2—4 p.m.	Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton.
		Third Tuesday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Methodist Schoolroom, Buckden.
		First Friday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Village Hall, Gt. Staughton.
Dental	Pre-School and School-children. Pre-Natal & nursing mothers.	1st Thursday in month, 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2—3.30 p.m.	Red Cross Room, High St. St. Neots.
		Every Wednesday (except 2nd in month) & every Saturday 10 a.m.—12 noon by appointment).	Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(II) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council:

Clinic.	Patients seen.	When held	Where held.
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren.	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency) 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2—4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Orthopaedic	Ditto	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month by appointment), 10 a.m.—12 noon.	Ditto

Chest	All ages	Every Monday, 2.30—3.30 p.m.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
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(III) The following Health Services are now provided by Regional Hospital Board.:

Venereal Diseases	All cases	Tuesday, 3 p.m. Thursday, 7 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
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Males: Wed. and Fri., 4—6 p.m.	Females: 28, Fitz- william Street, Peter- borough.
Wed. 4—6 p.m., Fri. 10—12 noon.	

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(c) Hospital Services.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, all hospitals in the area come under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Fever:—Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provides facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases can be admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged through the County Medical Officer.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	... 6
Whooping Cough	... 49
Diphtheria	... Nil
Measles	... 1
Acute Pneumonia	... 4
Puerperal Pyrexia	... 1
Typhoid Fever	... Nil
Jaundice	... 2
Erysipelas	... 4
Food Poisoning	... Nil

It is felt that parents do not take sufficient precautions to prevent the spread of the more common infectious diseases. It appears to be considered that children must "inevitably" contract these diseases at some time in their life and that they will "get over them" with no lasting harm. This argument is a false and lazy one. No disease can leave the body exactly as it finds it, although the damage done may be very small.

Parents should see to it that their offspring suffering from infectious diseases are kept apart from their healthy playmates.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, which came into force on 5th July, 1948, transferred the responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation from the District Authorities to the Huntingdon County Council.

From figures available 52.9% of the child population (0-14 years) of the district have received a primary course of immunisation but only 50% of the Babies (0-4 years) are so protected.

This is **not** good enough.

Diphtheria is essentially a school-spread disease—infected pupils passing the complaint to their fellows and to other members of their families, of whom the Babies are in greatest danger.

Few deaths occur among the adequately protected.

MOTHERS MUST PROTECT THEIR BABIES from this deadly disease.

If three quarters of all babies were immunised, diphtheria would be stamped out of the country.

Facilities for Diphtheria Immunisation are available at Infant Welfare Centres, through the School Health Service, and from General Practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Total No. on Register at 31st December, 1948—28 (Pulmonary 21, Non-Pulmonary 7).

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total...	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Chief Sanitary Inspector Reports as follows:—

WATER SUPPLY

At the end of 1948 the Council's main water schemes were virtually completed and work was in progress in connection with all the ancillary service pipes, etc., and consequently it is not yet possible to accurately assess the number of properties served by main water supplies. The table on page 7 however is a guide to the situation.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY CONDITIONS FOUND IN EACH PARISH

(Houses under £20 Rateable Value only).

Parish	Water Supply				Sanitation											
	Houses Surveyed	Main inside house	Main supply by Standpipe	Other water supplies	No proper supply	No. of W.C.s	No. of pail closets	Other accommodation	No accommodation	No. with sinks	No. with satisfactory drainage	No. with baths	No. of satisfactory washing accommodation	No. with satis. cooking	No. with satis. pantry	No. showing dampness
Abbotsley	59	12	44	1	2	3	52	4	—	19	19	9	37	56	23	23
Buckden	231	56	59	34	82	35	191	—	5	111	56	36	172	211	132	76
Catworth	72	12	47	6	7	3	69	—	—	17	18	3	27	58	27	47
Covington	21	2	14	5	—	—	21	—	—	5	2	—	6	13	9	15
Diddington	48	3	3	39	3	2	38	7	1	19	14	3	43	47	21	19
Eynesbury H.	23	2	13	3	5	1	21	1	—	11	4	1	19	23	17	10
Grafham	49	1	37	7	4	1	47	1	—	14	1	—	26	38	18	25
Gt. Gransden	104	47	43	12	2	12	90	2	—	54	41	14	34	101	57	38
Gt. Paxton	65	32	23	5	5	15	49	—	1	43	26	13	58	60	43	22
Gt. Staughton	163	36	95	29	3	17	143	2	1	65	34	19	101	154	80	80
Hail Weston	52	—	—	37	15	1	49	—	2	21	19	6	36	49	26	25
Kimbolton	162	81	64	16	1	46	116	—	—	109	54	32	133	154	87	72
Lt. Paxton	48	8	2	30	8	11	30	1	6	33	18	12	36	42	31	16
Offord Cluny	60	16	9	17	18	9	50	—	1	34	24	5	58	59	39	11
Offord Darcy	65	5	—	12	48	7	58	—	—	29	15	7	56	61	35	23
St. Neots Rural	17	11	—	4	2	10	5	2	—	14	10	2	15	17	14	6
Southoe	49	1	4	8	36	1	47	1	—	14	6	6	35	46	26	19
Stow	16	7	4	1	4	2	12	2	—	10	3	3	10	15	9	7
Tetworth	19	1	5	13	—	1	14	4	—	9	3	—	14	16	8	6
Tilbrook	48	13	27	3	5	4	44	—	—	25	10	4	37	43	23	19
Toseland	29	1	8	1	19	2	27	—	—	9	—	—	23	27	6	4
Yelling	39	3	4	1	31	2	36	—	1	10	—	—	28	38	11	9
Waresley	40	18	11	5	26	5	31	2	2	37	16	7	34	37	29	15
Total...	1479	368	516	289	306	190	1210	29	20	712	393	182	1091	1365	774	587

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The Council arrange for this work to be done by private contractor at the applicant's expense. 24 private and 7 public cesspools were emptied during the year.

SEWERS AND DISPOSAL

No change has taken place during the year. The Buckden-Offord and Kimbolton-Great Staughton Schemes have been delayed, due to negotiations for the sites for the disposal works. In the case of Kimbolton-Great Staughton the matter has now been cleared up, and progress on this scheme is expected during 1949. As previously stated the problem of sewerage and sewage disposal in most of the parishes will be an urgent one when full benefit is taken of the new main water schemes.

23 piped sewers and 3 open ditches received attention during 1948.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The schemes of collection of refuse and nightsoil outlined in the 1947 report operated smoothly during the year. At one period difficulty was experienced in finding suitable men, and it was found necessary to raise the rates of pay in order to attract the required labour.

During the year a new cesspool emptying machine with nightsoil attachment was ordered and delivery is expected early in 1949. At the end of the year the Council were negotiating for a new tip at Stirtloe. The Little Paxton refuse tip was put into use early in 1948.

SALVAGE

During the greater part of the year salvage returns were not very gratifying. Some salvage was collected by the Council's workmen and a special monthly collection by private contractor was organised. As this scheme did not operate efficiently the Council decided in the Autumn to award a salvage bonus to their own workmen and discontinue a special collection. The results have since proved the wisdom of this decision. As previously pointed out a large amount of salvage is collected in this area by a local dealer, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, etc.

The amounts of salvage collected were as follows: Waste Paper 5 tons 8 cwts.; Rags 3 cwts. 2qtrs. Total value £29.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE:—

Total number	...	3246
Total number of notices served	...	92
Informal	...	78
Formal	...	14
Total number of notices complied with	...	78
Informal	...	65
Formal	...	13

ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS MADE:—

Housing Act (other than Survey)	...	26
Rural Housing Survey	...	742
Council House Maintenance	...	436
Houses, etc. Under P.H. Act, 1936	...	110
Houses, etc. Under P.H. Act, 1936 (re-visits)	...	101
Supervising erection of new buildings	...	80
Sewers	...	169
Post War Housing	...	607
Shop Acts.	...	2
Cowsheds	...	81
Dairies	...	40
Bakehouses	...	7
Drains Tested	...	93
Infectious Disease	...	21
Rooms Disinfected	...	19

Water Supply (samples taken by S.I./22)	...	80
Scavenging	...	72
Food Premises	...	25
Rats and Mice	...	4
Building Licences	...	94
Salvage	...	15
Miscellaneous	...	151
Moveable Dwellings	...	6
Factories (with power)	...	6
Factories (without power)	...	13
Interviews	...	359
Public Buildings	...	1
Milk Samples	...	31
Sewerage Samples	...	2
Fried Fish Shop	...	2
Housing Applications	...	215
Overcrowding	...	19
Petroleum	...	2
Milk Sampling	...	32
Total Defects Remedied or Nuisances Abated	...	279

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, ETC.

Number of pail or tub closets in area (revised estimate)	...	1615
Number of W.C.'s in area (estimated)	...	1152
Number of pails reconstructed as W.C.'s in 1948	...	25
Number of new additional W.C.'s provided at existing property	...	3
Number of W.C.'s constructed in 1948 for new premises	...	143
Number of new pails provided	...	29
Number of dustbins provided	...	8

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Total number on register (including bakehouse)	...	63
Number in which defects remedied	...	3
Bakehouses, number on Register	...	9
Number in which defects remedied	...	2
Number of notices served	...	3
Number of notices complied with	...	3

PETROLEUM STORAGE LICENCES

Two new applications were received during the year and one was withdrawn leaving 24 premises on the register, all of which were licensed.

RATS AND MICE

The joint scheme with the Urban District outlined in previous reports continued to operate efficiently.

No. of complaints received	64
No. of premises treated	72
No. of visits made	381
No. of rat bodies estimated to have been destroyed	1296
No. of rat bodies found	673

(These figures relate to the Rural area only).

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Two continued to be licensed during the year subject to the usual conditions, and no cause for complaint was noted.

HOUSING INSPECTION

The difficulties outlined in my Report for 1947 continues to prevail during the year, but at the end of the year easing of restrictions on licences and materials were beginning to take effect and it is hoped that this tendency will continue in order that in the near future the bad housing conditions can be properly tackled. During 1948, efforts continued to be directed towards increasing the housing pool rather than on repairs, and only urgent repairs were dealt with.

Inspections under the Rural Housing Survey were completed during the year and a programme of action is now under discussion by the Council. During the year 590 houses were inspected and recorded and the summary for the whole survey gives the following figures:—

1. Entirely fit houses	... 132	} 34.7%
2. Minor defects	... 381	
3. Major defects of structure	... 510	—34.5%
4. Suitable for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers') Acts	... 121	—8.2%
5. Entirely unfit	... 335	—22.6%
Total houses surveyed...	1479	—100%

The major defects continued to be those set out in the Report for 1946.

HOUSES CONDEMNED

During the year 5 houses were made subject to Closing Orders, 2 to Demolition Orders and one further empty house was demolished after informal action under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

OVERCROWDING

The incidence of overcrowding based on the standard laid down in the Housing Act, 1936, is very low, due in my opinion to the large proportion of small families, the pre-war action taken by the Council and of course the low standard laid down by the Act.

At the end of the year 10 cases of overcrowding existed, involving 54 units (persons)—the extent of overcrowding being 12 units. 7 cases of overcrowding have been abated due to rehousing, notice to get rid of lodgers, or families left the district.

POST WAR HOUSING

607 visits were made during the year, mainly in connection with the supervision of new house building, construction of roads, sewers, etc. The Council now own 18 housing sites scattered about their 23 parishes, and four other sites are in process of negotiations. 16 of these sites in addition to the three temporary housing sites have been developed. Tenders are about to be obtained in connection with another site.

At the end of 1948 the Council had completed and occupied 20 Ministry of Works temporary houses and 13 converted huts on the Kimbolton Airfield. Permanent Council houses completed during the year were as follows:—

Parish	Completed	Under Construction
Abbotsley	4	2
Buckden	4	18
Gt. Gransden	12	—
Gt. Staughton	4	2
Gt. Paxton	6	8
Kimbolton	6	—
Offord Darcy	Nil	4 (Almost compd.)
Offord Cluny	4	—
Stow Longa	4	—
Tilbrook	8	—
Yelling	6	—
Grafham	6	—
Hail Weston	—	6
Lt. Paxton	—	4
	64	44

In addition, negotiations were taking place at the end of the year for the erection of four houses at Southoe, 12 at Offord Cluny, 8 at Buckden, 8 at Hail Weston, 2 at Great Paxton and 4 at Great Staughton.

My remarks in the Report for 1947 are reinforced by the final figures obtained by the Rural Housing Survey, in that a larger proportion of new houses should be of a smaller type.

Four new private houses were completed during the year and eight additional houses were provided by conversions.

BUILDING LICENCES

160 licences were granted during 1948. Much time is taken up in dealing with these applications and in advising Ministries upon others, but I am glad to be able to say that the end of the year produced a considerable easing of this burden. The remarks in my Report for 1947 no longer apply as it is possible to get urgent defects remedied under the "free allowances" allowed. The next step will be to authorise large scale reconditioning of the houses considered worthy of such action.

NEW BUILDINGS

46 plans of new buildings or alterations were deposited. Two plans were rejected on account of unsatisfactory water supply and a plan of a garage was rejected due to its position.

80 visits were paid to works in progress.

COUNCIL HOUSE MAINTENANCE

436 visits were made and 221 orders were issued for repairs.

Electric lighting has been installed in 35 old houses, main water is being provided in 110 old houses, 4 pail closets have been converted into W.C.'s and a further 20 are to be done early in 1949. Otherwise the remarks in the 1946 Report still apply.

SUMMARY OF THE HOUSING SURVEY

TYPES OF NEW HOUSES SUGGESTED BY SURVEY

Parish	Class I & II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Over- crow- ded	Total	Bunga- low or 2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR or over	To- tal
Abbotsley	8	21	8	22	Nil	59	13	6	3	—	22
Buckden	118	66	—	47	6	231	26	14	3	1	44
Catworth	12	18	16	26	1	72	17	4	—	—	21
Covington	—	5	8	8	Nil	21	3	2	—	—	5
Diddington	15	21	—	12	1	48	5	4	1	1	11
Eynesbury H'wicke	8	3	10	2	Nil	23	—	—	—	—	Nil
Grafham (& E. Perry)	2	10	33	4	1	49	3	1	—	1	5
Gt. Gransden	40	53	—	11	Nil	104	8	2	1	—	11
Gt. Paxton	31	27	—	7	Nil	65	3	1	2	—	6
Gt. Staughton	41	49	25	48	1	163	31	13	2	—	46
Hail Weston	14	18	2	18	2	52	12	4	1	—	17
Kimbolton	52	70	—	40	Nil	162	31	4	—	—	35
Lt. Paxton	25	11	—	12	Nil	48	6	2	—	—	8
Offord Cluny	29	29	—	2	1	60	1	1	—	—	2
Offord D'Arcy	31	24	—	10	1	65	5	3	—	—	8
St. Neots Rural	11	4	—	2	Nil	17	1	—	—	—	1
Southoe	11	20	—	18	Nil	49	10	4	2	—	16
Stow Longa	5	4	2	5	Nil	16	3	2	—	—	5
Tetworth	6	7	3	3	Nil	19	—	1	1	—	2
Tilbrook	11	10	14	13	2	48	8	1	2	1	12
Toseland	5	15	—	9	Nil	29	6	3	—	—	9
Yelling	12	17	—	10	Nil	39	7	2	1	—	10
Waresley	26	8	—	6	1	40	2	2	1	—	5
Totals...	513	510	121	335	17		201	76	20	4	301
Total Number of Houses Inspected						...	1479				

REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY FOR ST. NEOTS RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1948.

Name of Town, Village or Parish	Source of Supply, Public Supply, Wells, etc.	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Analysis of In- dividual Supplies * Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory or none	No. of such Analysis	Estimated No. of				Estimated Popu- lation Supplied	
						Direct from Main Supply	By Stand-pipes	By public or private wells	Direct from Main Supply	By Stand-pipes	By public or private wells
Abbotsley	Public Mains	Suff.	Satis.	Nil	—	42	44	3	155	160	9
Buckden	"	"	"	Unsat.	1	77	24	228	231	72	69
Catworth	"	"	"	Nil	—	80	—	9	287	—	31
Covington	"	"	"	Nil	—	26	—	4	102	—	16
Diddington	"	"	"	Nil	—	—	6	46	—	30	226
Eynesbury H.	" Mains	"	"	1 Unsat., 1 Satis	2	24	—	8	103	—	36
Grafham	Public Mains & Wells	"	"	Nil	—	1	43	17	4	135	61
Gt. Gransden	Public Mains	"	"	Nil	—	128	—	25	308	—	72
Gt. Paxton	"	"	"	Nil	—	69	30	3	206	90	9
Gt. Staughton	"	"	"	Unsat.	4	177	—	37	582	—	110
Hail Weston	"	"	"	Nil	—	1	—	82	4	—	283
Kimbolton	"	"	"	Unsat.	1	260	—	13	954	—	45
Lt. Paxton	"	"	"	Unsat.	6	17	—	46	55	—	145
St. Neots Rural	Wells	"	"	" Nil	—	15	—	7	47	—	21
Offord Cluny	Public Mains	"	"	Unsat.	2	34	—	51	102	—	152
Offord Darcy	"	"	"	Nil	—	28	—	71	71	—	217
Southoe & Midloe	"	"	"	{ 2 Unsat., 1 Satis..	3	3	—	77	10	—	206
Stow	"	"	"	Unsat.	1	30	—	2	110	—	8
Tetworth	Public Mains & Wells	"	"	Unsat.	2	16	—	11	53	—	32
Tilbrook	Public Mains	"	"	Nil	—	67	—	4	153	—	10
Toseland	"	"	"	Nil	—	14	3	30	39	9	90
Waresley	"	"	"	Nil	—	5	—	51	20	—	163
Yelling	"	"	"	Nil	—	12	24	39	35	70	105
						1126	174	864	3631	566	2746
						2164		6943			

* In 13 cases of unsatisfactory samples, public main water has been substituted, and in one case the houses concerned were closed under the Housing Act, 1936, and in four cases the wells were not in use. In two cases the premises are very isolated and no action other than advice to boil water was possible. Particulars regarding plumbo-solvent action connected with above supplies:—None.

MAIN PIPED SUPPLIES.

Source of Supply.	Parishes Supplied.
a.—South Cambs. R.D.C.:	Waresley, Abbotsley, Gt. Gransden and Tetworth.
b.—Raunds U.D.C.:	Kimbolton, Covington, Catworth, Tilbrook and Stow.
c.—Staughton Moor:	Gt. Staughton and Perry.
d.—Diddington:	Buckden, Diddington, Grafham, Southoe, Lt. Paxton, Hail Weston, Offords, Gt. Paxton, Tose-land and Yelling.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS ON RAW WATER.

Total No. of Samples: a, nil; b, nil; c, nil; d, 1; No. Satis. 1.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS ON TREATED WATER.

Total No. of Samples: a, nil; b, nil; c, nil; d, 1; No. Satis. 1.

PARTICULARS OF UNSATISFACTORY ANALYSES: Nil.

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN PROGRESS.

At the end of 1948 the Council's main water schemes were virtually completed and work was in progress in connection with the ancillary service pipes, etc. A main now exists in all the parishes in the area, but it is anticipated that it will take considerable time for all the properties to be connected to the new mains, although a start has been made with this work.

PARTICULARS OF ANY CHEMICAL ANALYSES: Nil.

WELLS.

New wells sunk: Nil.

Wells cleansed and repaired: 7.

Wells closed as polluted: 8.

Number of samples obtained for analysis found to be:—

Satisfactory: 2.

Unsatisfactory: 20.

Action taken: See Page 13.

Any insufficiency: No.

MILK AND DAIRIES

During the year 31 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, of which eleven satisfied the test for accredited milk and 20 failed, of which 9 contained b.coli. Several of the unsatisfactory samples only just failed.

During the year 5 new cowsheds and 4 new dairies were constructed. 6 existing cowsheds and six existing dairies were structurally repaired and renovated to bring them up to a satisfactory standard.

Of the 86 cowkeepers and dairymen in the area, 11 hold "Tuberculin Tested" licences, 5 hold "Accredited" licences, and 4 have supplementary designation licences.

The standard of premises in the area seems to be divided into two classes—the very good and the very bad—and a large number of premises will require considerable repairs and alterations as time permits. The existence of the 1944 Milk Act renders, in some respects, the administration difficult, as it is felt to be both unwise and unfair to require considerable alterations now only to find that when these powers are transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture new and different regulations may apply.

Number of dairymen, cowkeepers and purveyors of milk (milk sellers) in District—86.

Number registered—86.

Number of inspections of premises—121.

Number of inspections during milking time—23.

Number of premises requiring white-washing, cleansing, etc.,—11.

Number in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out—11.

Number of premises requiring structural or sanitary improvements—21.

Number in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out—21.

Number of premises with well water supply—24.

Number of wells from which water analysed—Nil.

Number of Retailers from outside the District—6.

FOOD INSPECTION

During the year 82 lbs. of food were condemned as unfit for consumption—this was chiefly tinned food, bacon, and rabbits.

Two premises are registered for the sale of prepacked ice cream and one other shop is registered for the manufacture of ice cream under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. It will be necessary to take steps to check upon all premises falling within Section 14 in the near future with a view to registration.

All slaughtering of animals for sale still takes place at the Urban District Council's slaughterhouse.

SLAUGHTERMEN'S LICENCES

5 have been renewed during the year.

There are 8 slaughterhouses in the area, none of which are in regular use. The only slaughtering taking place is that of cottagers' private pigs.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

